

Introducing Civic Engagement to Members

Introducing civic engagement to members can be a process in and of itself. The introduction should cover the requirements and process for CE, build enthusiasm, and start exploring the ideas of civic engagement. Building enthusiasm is particularly important because members' enthusiasm for the process is often directly related to how enthusiastic Project Supervisors, returning members, and team/CE leaders are from the beginning of the process.

Topics to Cover in the Introduction

Your Enthusiasm/Connection to the Process

- ⇒ Why is civic engagement important to you? What gets you excited about the process? What curriculum or process goals do you particularly connect with? Sharing your enthusiasm is vital to starting off in a positive way.
- ⇒ You may also want to include highlights from your past experience with the curriculum. Share some of the positive results you've seen from the process so members can have an idea of the possible outcomes.

Goals of the Member CE Process

- ⇒ The first major goal of the member process is to help members prepare to facilitate with youth. If members understand from the beginning that they are going through a curriculum designed for middle-school aged youth for that purpose, it may be easier to keep them engaged.
- ⇒ The other major goal of the process is for members to deepen their own understanding about civic engagement and project planning. Depending on their previous experience, members may already be more familiar with these ideas and skills, but they should be encouraged to remain open to the learning available.

Training of Trainers

- ⇒ Discussing the training of trainers aspect of the member process can be vital if members will be facilitating the bulk of the curriculum to each other. Include an overview of how a training of trainers looks and how it differs from just going through the curriculum.
- ⇒ For a more complete look at how to incorporate a training of trainers aspect to the member process, see Tools for Engaging Members in the *Roadmap*.

Roadmap Overview

- ⇒ Briefly summarizing the curriculum can be important for members who need to see the big picture. It can also help to go through the unit goals and see how they fit into the larger curriculum goals.
- ⇒ The *Roadmap* Flowchart of Outcomes can help provide an overview of unit and curriculum goals.

What is civic engagement?

- ⇒ Introducing the concept of civic engagement can be very important for members who are not familiar with the term or concept yet. Unit 1 helps introduce the concept, and for additional introduction ideas, please see the Most Exciting Introduction to CE (see section 1 of the CE Atlas).